(3) East Khándesh Division—

	Reserved Forest.		Protected Forest.	
	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.
Jámner range	0	181	0	0
Sávda range	0	0	2	184
Chopda range	0	0	15	361

(4) In the West Khándesh division 6 square miles and 329 acres were excluded from the Protected Forest area in the Shirpur range.

(5) Two hundred and sixty-four acres were disforested in the Godhra range and 1 acre in the Hálol range of the Panch Maháls division-but in the Dohad range 72 square miles and 458 acres, and in the Jhálod range 41 square miles and 632 acres, have been removed from Protected Forests for conversion into Reserved; but their final notification under Section 19 of the Forest Act did not occur during the year.

21. At the close of the year the forest reservations legally constituted under the Forest Act represent the following areas in the Northern Circle :—

	Sq. m.	a.
Reserved Forest	7,357	289
Protected Forest	791	486
Total ...	8,149	135

giving an increase of 66 square miles and 311 acres in Reserved Forest, but on the other hand a reduction of 202 square miles and 605 acres in Protected forest; the net decrease in total area of forest reservations, therefore, has amounted to 136 square miles and 294 acres.

2.—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

22. Forest demarcation, meaning the selection of lands for forest reservations, has been completed in almost all the Collectorates of the Northern Circle, as will be seen from this statement:—

No.	Collectorate.	Number of Tálukas.	Number of Ta'lukas			Remarks.
			In which demarcation has been completed and sanctioned.	In which demarcation is incomplete.	In which demarcation is not undertaken.	
1	Thána	10	6	(*a*) 2	*2	* Murbád and part of Sháhápur range.
2	Khándesh ...	16	12	(*b*) 4	...	
3	Násik	12	12	...	...	
4	Ahmednagar ...	11	11	...	...	(*a*) Máhim and Dáhánu.
5	Poona	8	8	...	...	(*b*) Taloda, Nandurbár, Pimpalner and Sindkheda.
6	Sátára	11	11	...	...	
7	Sholápur ...	7	7	...	...	
8	Surat, not including the Dángs.	8	5	...	†3	† There are no forests in these tálukas.
9	Panch Maháls ...	3	3	...	...	
10	Ahmedábad ...	7	1	...	‡6	‡ Do. do.
	Total ...	93	76	6	11	

23. In the tálukas wherein the selection of lands for forest reservation has been completed and sanctioned, there still remain to be acquired occupied lands which are contained within the determined forest boundaries of the future, in order to complete the final separation between forests and cultivation, which the approved forest conservancy schemes provide. Most of these lands are held

for cultivation, and the work of acquiring them by payment of compensation, or by giving other lands in exchange, is progressing; 1,762 acres were acquired in the several divisions of the Northern Circle during the year by payment of Rs. 20,835 in compensation as under:—

No.	Division.	Area acquired		Amount of Compensation paid.	Average Rate per Acre.
		By Exchange.	By Purchase.		
		A. g.	A. g.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	North Thána	...	...	.....	.....
2	South Thána	...	0 9	12 0 0	53 5 4
3	East Khándesh	...	1,120 1	4,797 15 1	4 4 0
4	West Khándesh	...	...	.....	.....
5	Násik	...	45 16	120 0 0	2 8 0
6	Ahmednagar	178 8	158 32	688 5 4	4 4 0
7	Poona	481 38	71 13	11,759 1 1	165 8 0
8	Sátára	...	43 11	64 4 0	1 8 0
9	Sholápur	63 23	87 2	*851 1 6	9 12 0
10	Surat	...	18 22	1,869 0 0	103 12 0
11	Panch Mahála...	...	217 15	672 15 10	3 0 0
	Total ...	723 29	1,762 1	20,834 10 10	

*Includes Rs. 6-1-6 for registration charges.

(*a*) In the East Khándesh division the lands acquired by purchase are in three ranges, thus :—

Ranges.	Area.	Amount paid.
	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
Erandol	349 6	634 9 11
Jámner	656 15	3,633 12 2
Páchora	114 20	529 9 0

(*b*) In the Násik division one holding of 15 acres and 16 gunthas in the village of Jaidara in the Yeola range was purchased for Rs. 120.

(*c*) In the Ahmednagar district the lands obtained on compensation are as under:—

Ranges.	Area.	Compensation.
	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
Párner...	3 0	10 0 0
Nevása	42 11	75 0 0
Ráhuri...	31 5	60 0 0
Sangamner	12 35	333 5 4
Akola	69 21	210 0 0

(*d*) The area, 71 acres and 13 gunthas, acquired in the Poona division at a cost of Rs 11,759-1-1, is comparatively costly, but these lands are covered with teak trees, some of which were the property of Government and some of the occupant, and they are situated in the centre of a Reserved Forest at Dháyari in the Haveli range, and the occupant was unwilling to dispose of them, and they were acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1870, and therefore the compensation was higher than is ordinarily paid.

(*e*) In the Sátára division all the land acquired was in the Pátan range in four villages and consisted of five survey numbers, representing 43 acres 11 gunthas, for which Rs. 64-4-0 had to be given.

(*f*) The lands purchased in the Sholápur division are as below :—

Ranges.	Area,		Amount paid.		
	A.	g.	Rs.	a.	p.
Karmála	32	28	425	0	0
Mádha	48	22	300	0	0
Sángola	5	32	120	0	0

(*g*) In the Surat division Rs. 1,869 were paid for the purchase of 18 acres and 22 gunthas of land, of which 10 acres and 11 gunthas were acquired for the purpose of a timber depôt at Wágrech, near a bandar on the Ambika river, and near the Bilimora Station on the B. B. & C. I. Railway, at a cost of Rs. 1,455, to which timber from the Dángs' forests is brought for sale, the remainder of the land—8 acres and 11 gunthas—for which Rs. 414 were paid, being at Goema inside a Reserved Forest in the Párdi táluka.

(*h*) In the Panch Maháls division 214 acres and 23 gunthas were purchased in the Godhra táluka for Rs. 652-3-9, and 2 acres and 32 gunthas in the Hálol range for Rs. 12-1-0.

24. In addition to the Reserved and Protected Forests already finally constituted under the Forest Act, considerable tracts of forest lands and of waste lands, the property of Government spreading over 548 square miles and 297 acres in seven districts, some of which, 132 square miles and 37 acres, have been selected both during the year, and some, 416 square miles and 216 acres, during past years, for forest reservation, and have in this view been provisionally notified under Section 4, were still undergoing settlement at the close of the year. The following statement shows the distribution of these provisionally notified and unsettled forest lands at the close of the year, in the different Collectorates of the Northern Circle:—

No.	Collectorate.	Section 4.		Section 26.		Total.	
		Sq. m.	Acs.	Sq. m.	Acs.	Sq. m.	Acs.
1	Thána	3	279	.....		3	279
2	Khándesh	166	423	260	493	427	276
3	Násik	.....		.....		.....	
4	Ahmednagar	0	521	.....		0	521
5	Poona	1	263	.....		1	263
6	Sátára	0	71	.....		0	71
7	Sholápur	0	93	.....		0	93
8	Surat	.....		.....		.....	
9	Panch Maháls	115	74	.....		115	74
	Total ...	287	444	260	493	548	297

25. The settlement under the provisions of the Forest Act of old forest areas which had been gazetted under Section 34 of that Act in the month of March 1879, has been completed in the greater number of the divisions of the Northern Circle, but much still remains to be undertaken in the Thána Collectorate; and the following statement shows the progress made during the year and what still remains to be accomplished. In North Thána the Máhim, Dáhánu and Umbargaon ranges have still to be settled, and in South Thána the Murbád and Sháhápur ranges. Six hundred and seventy-eight square miles are shown against the Surat division, but this represents the territorial area of the Dángs, which are leased by Government for forest conservancy, and should apparently be expunged from the statement, for the reason that although the entire area of the Dángs was gazetted as Reserved Forest under notification No. 26 F., dated 1st March 1879, published under Section 34 of the Forest Act, it has been ruled subsequently that the Forest Act does not apply to the Dángs.

No.	Name of Division and class of Forest.	At the commencement of the year: areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been inquired into, settled and recorded.	Areas settled during the year.		Areas of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Areas of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year: areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been inquired into, settled and recorded.	Remarks.
			Chapter II of the Forest Act.	Chapter IV of the Forest Act.				
		Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	
1	North Thána ... { Reserved ...	35	2	...	...	...	33	
	Protected ..	237	...	18½	...	...	218½	
2	South Thána ... { Reserved ...	98	...	...	...	...	98	
	Protected ...	323	...	...	...	...	323	
3	Poona ... ... { Reserved ...	9	9	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	....	...	
4	Surat ... ... { Reserved ...	678	...	...	...	...	678	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Total ...	1,380	11	18½	...	...	1,350½	

Settlement Officers' Proceedings during the year.

Thána Collectorate.

26. The office of the Forest Settlement Officer, Thána, was in charge of the Collector from 1st April to 17th June 1891, consequent to Mr. Owen having proceeded to Europe on sick leave; but Mr. McIver, Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey, was appointed Forest Settlement and Demarcation Officer for the Thána Collectorate under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 3962, dated 10th June 1891, and received charge of the office from the Collector on the 18th July 1891, which he retained to the close of the year. The Collector had of course been unable to afford any time to the out-door duties of the office, and had only kept the desk work going.

During the rainy season :—

(1) All the village maps of the Dáhánu táluka and Umbargaon petha were mounted in readiness for field demarcations.

(2) Detailed lists of forest lands in the Dáhánu táluka and Umbargaon petha were prepared.

(3) Topographical sheets of the Dáhánu táluka and its petha were mounted and colored, to illustrate the proposals of the Forest Department.

(4) Forest registers (Form No. II *a*) were prepared for the Váda táluka, and also forest registers for the Kalyán táluka.

(5) A large scale táluka map to illustrate the demarcated forests of the Karjat táluka (which no longer belongs to the Northern Circle) was traced and colored.

(6) Complete lists were prepared of all the maps in the office.

Mr. J. H. Clabby, Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, was appointed Assistant Demarcation Officer, Thána, under Government Resolution No. 7049, dated 14th October 1891, and joined Mr. McIver on the 10th November 1891. In the month of November and during the first half of December Mr. McIver visited the Kalyán and Bhiwndi tálukas, completing the settlement work of six villages which remained to be finished; and during the latter part of December he commenced the demarcation and settlement of the Dáhánu táluka. Maps and statements showing Mr. Owen's proposals for the demarcation of the Máhim táluka were furnished in January to the Divisional Forest Officer, North Thána, with a view to his personal inspection and criticisms of the project.

Negotiations were carried on with fair success for the acquisition of occupied lands contained within sanctioned forest reservations in different tálukas; and up to the end of March the settlement and the demarcation of forests in 12 and 19 villages, respectively, in the Dáhánu táluka were completed. The settlement of boundary disputes, which had appeared between the Jawhár territory and forests within the Thána Collectorate, was also taken in hand, and two out of nine such disputes in the Dáhánu táluka were inquired into and settled before the close of the year. Mr. McIver was very considerably retarded in his operations by sickness in his camp in January; all but one of the Surveyors in the field establishment suffered from jungle fever of a severe type, so that three of them were incapacitated for all work from the middle of January to the end of the season, and one of these men, Antaji Martand, died of fever on the 26th March.

27. Government in their Resolution No. 7389, dated 27th October 1891, in the Revenue Department, issued orders sanctioning the final forest demarcation project and the forest settlement of the Váda táluka completed by Mr. Owen, of which mention is made in paragraph 33 of last year's administration report.

The Váda taluka contains an area of 309 square miles, of which about 42 are in alienated villages, and a population of 36,497 or 188 to the square mile; it is a very hilly tract of country, and is at some distance from the sea coast as well as from the Shayádri mountains of the Western Ghát; its eastern boundary, however, ascends to the Mokháda plateau, reaching a height of 1,500 feet above sea level; it has no railway passing through any portion of it, but it lies between the B. B. & C. I. line on the west, and the G. I. P. Railway on the east; it possesses no tidal creeks, but Manor bandar, the most important bandar of timber export in the district, is only a short distance beyond its frontier on the Vaitarna river, which is subject to tidal influence, soon after leaving the Váda táluka; a made-road is being completed which passes through the táluka north and south, and will open its forests out to markets in the Násik district above the ghát, while at the same time, it facilitates export of timber and other forest produce to markets and bandars in the south; a made-road under construction to Manor bandar, passing through the centre of the táluka east and west, will serve, in a high degree, the timber traffic towards the coast; and there are numerous fair weather cart roads leading out of the táluka by every valley on its east, south and west sides, along which strings of carts are to be seen from November to the rains, conveying the exploitable produce of the Váda forests to the railways, and to water carriage, as well as for local supply. The timber growth in the forest lands of the Váda táluka is very fair in size and quality, and is dense in most parts; the inaccessibility of the táluka and the difficulties of transport having protected its trees against such depletion as has occurred in other portions of the Thána district. Selections of areas for forest reservation have been made at different times since 1865 by Revenue Survey, Revenue and Forest Officers, so that in 1878, when the Forest Act came into existence, there were under the immediate management of the Forest Department:—

	Acres.	g.
First class Reserves	50,252	16
Second do.	12,262	24
Other forest lands	14,371	35

and in March 1879, when the total cultivation in the táluka including alienated villages was spread over 55,641 acres, with a rent roll of Rs. 54,587, there were gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act, as being under forest conservancy administration at the time, the following areas:—

	Acres.	g.
Of Reserved Forest	54,560	22
„ Protected Forest	35,685	20
Total ...	90,246	2

These included all the forest lands and waste lands covered with trees which are the property of Government; but much of this land, of that gazetted as Protected Forests especially, is not suitable for permanent retention under forest con-

servancy; and in Mr. Owen's final project, which has been approved and sanctioned, the Reserved Forests comprising the entire forest reservations in the Váda táluka are reduced to, and fixed at, 78,788 acres and 25 gunthás, equal to 46·2 per cent. of the territorial area of the Váda táluka, excluding the alienated villages. All the permanent land marks which stand out in such bold and conspicuous relief in the landscape form the centres of forest reservations; for example, the fortified solitary hill of Kohoj, which rises straight up from the plains to a height of 1,906 feet above the sea, crowned with two remarkable knobs of trap rock, and which is noticeable from miles round, with its buttressed base covered with trees; the Davja hill in the south, very steep below and sloping above with its two spurs looking like a three-peaked hill; the Kapri hills in the east, the Sudgaon hills in the north-west and the Ikna and Dhomkávla hills in the south-east, distinguish the sites of forest preserves which would give a perfect scientific protection of catchments and drainage slopes, if alienated lands in Government villages, and alienated villages *en bloc*, did not intrude with their hideously barbarous shaven and disforested slopes in the green sea of a promising timber wealth, the property of the State. The forest boundaries have been located by Mr. Owen, wherever it was possible for him to do so, to take in all the chief drainage slopes; and these Forest Reserves besides being commercially valuable will safeguard the agricultural wealth of the Váda táluka.

28. The Collector of Thána has recorded that—

"2. The Collector is not satisfied with the amount of work done by the Forest Settlement Establishment. But he does not think that the small out-turn of work is due to any failing on the part of Mr. McIver.

"3. The establishment was short during the rains, and the unhealthiness of the season delayed both the start and the progress of field operations. In the Collector's own office, when encamped near Mr. McIver's, there was not a single permanent clerk on duty excepting the Head Clerk, and the exposure and risk of the Forest Settlement subordinates was of course much beyond that of an English Office."

Khándesh Collectorate.

29. Mr. C. G. Dodgson, I.C.S., has been Forest Settlement Officer of Khándesh throughout the year, with the exception of a period of one month from 27th August to 27th September while on privilege leave, when Mr. Lucas, I.C.S., Assistant Collector, was in charge of the office; Mr. Dodgson also acted as Collector of the district in addition to his Settlement duties from 4th May to 30th June. At the commencement of the year he was engaged in the Akráni Pargana in demarcating the Bhil settlements within the Akráni-Narbada proposed forest reserve, and in laying down the southern boundary of the latter; but being ordered by Government to relieve Mr. Loch, the Collector, early in May, he had to leave this work unfinished; while acting as Collector he had no time to attend to his regular duties of Forest Settlement Officer; his surveyors, however, were engaged in erecting pillars along the North Navápur and Taloda plain reserves.

During the rains Mr. Dodgson submitted reports on the settlement and demarcation of the forests, the inspection of which had been completed during the travelling season, *i. e.*, on the forests of the Sindkheda and Nandurbár tálukas, the Amli reserve in the Navápur petha, and part of the Akráni-Narbada proposed reserve, in the Taloda táluka. Orders of Government have been received on the last only.

Mr. Dodgson went out into camp after the rains early in November, and inspected part of the forests in the south of the Pimpalner táluka up to the end of the first week in December, the settlement of the northern half of the táluka having been already completed and sanctioned by Government; he then went into the Shirpur táluka with a view to seeing what lands could be added to the Shirpur-Sátpuda reserve, out of the Protected Forests in certain villages according to the Collector's proposals. In January he inspected the Protected Forests of the Sávda and Chopda tálukas with the same object. Early in February he moved camp into the Bhusával táluka and the Edalabad petha, where he completed the settlement, under the Forest Act, of the lands, which formerly occupied, had been acquired and notified under Section 4 of the said Act. During the latter part of

February he proceeded from Bhusával into the Pimpalner táluka and resumed his inspection of forest lands and waste lands for selection of forest reservations, which had been left unfinished in December 1891, and this work was completed by the end of March 1892. Enquiry was held and report submitted to Government, on forest rights of three alienated villages by Mr. Dodgson, but their orders were not out up to the close of the year.

Mr. Dodgson has performed another year's valuable work in selection and settlement of Forest Reserves in the Khándesh District with great judgment and industry, and his name will live in connection with these permanent interests for the establishment of which he has laboured so diligently.

Násik Collectorate.

30. There is no special Forest Settlement Officer employed in the Násik Collectorate, as no sufficient work is left to occupy the full time and attention of a separate officer. The different Assistant Collectors have been appointed *ex-officio* Forest Settlement Officers in their own respective charges, and they perform such work of inquiry and settlement, in respect of acquired occupied lands notified under Section 4 as may be necessary. No settlement work was undertaken during the year. The final notification under Section 19 of the Forest Act, referred to in paragraph 37 of last year's administration report, in respect of the Dindori forests, was published under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 3189, dated 9th May 1891, in the Revenue Department, and 55,377 acres were thus added to the Reserved Forests constituted under the Forest Act in the Násik Division.

31. The Dindori táluka is one of the western sub-divisions of the Násik district, having the Sahyádri range of Western Ghats for its western boundary; its area is about 528 square miles and its population about 137 to the square mile. The physical character of the country is hilly; on the north extends the Saptashring or seven-horned range of hills with Chattarsingh, one of its peaks rising to a height of 4,659 feet above sea level; the southern slopes of this range are in forest reservation. Several feeders constituting a portion of the head-waters system of the Godávari river have their sources in the Dindori highlands, the chief of these being the Kadva and Bánganga. The forest reserves are distributed fairly over the water sheds and slopes and the rough broken ground. Teak is the predominating tree, but it is only of rafter size at a distance from the ghats in the region of light rainfall; but upon the western slopes of the Sahyádris where the forest growth is comparatively dense and a mixed forest appears, containing Sadra or Ain (Terminalia tomentosa), Dhávda (Anogeissus latifolia), Tiwas (Dalbergia oojenensis), Hed (Adina cordifolia), Kalamb (Stephegyne parvifolia), Bibla (pterocarpus marsupium), Beheda (Terminalia bellerica), Khair (Acacia catechu), Kinaye (Acacia procera) and other so-called junglewood trees associating with the teak tree, the latter in these parts grows to good timber size, with tall clean cylindrical stems. The forest conservancy scheme of the Dindori táluka occupies 55,377 acres of its territorial spread.

Ahmednagar Collectorate.

32. Mr. Vyankatesh Bapuji Vadekar was special Forest Settlement Officer of the Ahmednagar Collectorate throughout the year, and completed the settlement of such lands as had been notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act; and 1,394 acres were finally notified under Section 19 of the said Act. No portion of either a Reserved or Protected Forest was disforested during the year, but on the other hand, 158 acres and 32 gunthas of occupied lands inside forest boundaries were acquired by purchase, and 178 acres and 8 gunthas by exchange for conversion into Reserved Forests; about 26,813 acres of occupied lands which are contained within the sanctioned boundaries of the approved forest reservations, still remain to be acquired in this district, to complete the different forest conservancy projects. Copies of forest registers of the Jámkhed, Karjat, Párner and Nagar tálukas, for the use of the Divisional Forest Officer, and also lists showing the old survey numbers of forest lands, with their corresponding numbers according to the revision survey, for the tálukas of Jámkhed, Nevása, Karjat, Nagar and Shevgaon, were prepared during the year for publication. Mr. Vadekar is doing very good work in the Ahmednagar district.

Poona Collectorate.

33. Mr. C. P. B. Wiltshire, I.C.S., was in charge of the Forest Settlement Office, Poona, throughout the year, with the exception of a period from 1st April to 3rd June 1891, when Mr. Cappel, I.C.S., officiated; both these officers conducted the forest settlement of the Collectorate, in addition to their own revenue and magisterial duties. An area of 553 acres and 51 gunthas of occupied lands within the sanctioned demarcation line has been acquired for forests, out of which 481 acres and 38 gunthas were obtained by exchange, and the remaining 71 acres and 13 gunthas by purchase, the compensation paid amounting to Rs. 11,759-1-1, giving an average rate of Rs. 165-9-11 per acre, which appears to be very high, but the reasons for this have been explained already.

34. The final settlement report of the Indápur táluka, referred to in the concluding portion of paragraph 39 of last year's report, to finish off odds and ends, was sanctioned by Government in their Resolution No. 8498, dated 9th December 1891, in the Revenue Department.

35. Before the days of the Forest Act the demarcated forest reservations in the Indápur táluka were limited to 10,804 acres, but subsequent selections of waste lands for forests have raised the acreage under forest conservancy management to 62,506 acres, or about 17 per cent., of the entire subdivision, which measures 566·6 square miles. The predominating tree on good soil on the banks of rivers and streams is the Bábul (Acacia arabica) which grows to large size, and is intermixed here with Bor (Zizyphus jujuba), Hinganbet (Balanites ægyptiaca), Hewar (Acacia leucophlea), &c. The country is hilly and rugged in the north-west and centre, but towards the Nira and Bhima rivers, which bound it on the north, east and south sides, it is open and level. The broken uplands which run east and west through the centre of the táluka like a back-bone, are very stony and rocky, carrying little or no soil, and as the rains are exceedingly scanty and uncertain, and aridity during the greater portion of the year is extreme, the conditions are as unfavorable as could be devised to reboisement: however, where protection against cattle has been effective, the results are very promising; and there is no reason why the bared and unpromising uplands of Indápur should not be fully covered with fuel and fodder bushes and with good grass within the next 10 or 12 years, provided goats are excluded from these areas, and villagers are not allowed to cut down the young wood, and cattle are not permitted to trample and browse down all plant life. Even now in places where there is some soil, trees are to be seen in the high lands or ridge; but it will be many years before timber, suitable for building purposes, will be produced in any considerable quantities.

36. Settlement inquiries have been completed in respect of 8,289 acres and 33 gunthas of notified forest lands in 43 villages of different tálukas, and there now remains no portion of the old forests, which were gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act in March 1879, unsettled. Forest registers were prepared in accordance with Symond's Manual for Khed, Ambegaon and Indápur, completing the series, and copies issued to the Divisional Forest Officer, but the duty of preparing English forest registers in the form, prescribed in the Forest Department Code, remains to be undertaken.

37. The printing of lists of occupied lands contained within the sanctioned forest reserves has progressed: copies of the lists for the Mával, Junnar, Bhimthadi, Sirúr, Indápur, Khed and Ambegaon ranges have been furnished to the local Revenue and Forest officers, and there now remain two lists to be printed, *viz.*, for the Haveli and Mulshi ranges; these are delayed for the want of village records of the revision survey, which is still unfinished: negotiations for the acquirement of the occupied lands inside the forest boundaries will now be carried on vigorously with the help of the printed lists. Mr. Wiltshire, I.C.S., has taken great interest in his settlement and demarcation duties, and has been unusually successful in acquiring possession of occupied lands within forest boundaries, and valuable work has been accomplished in the Poona District during the year.

Sátára Collectorate.

38. The selection of the permanent forest reservations and their settlement in the 14 ranges of this Collectorate have been completed some years ago, chiefly by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, I.C.S., but a great deal of miscellaneous work still remains to be done, such as the acquirement of the occupied lands contained within the sanctioned forest reservations, with their settlement after acquisition: this work has been carried on during this year by the Assistant or Deputy Collectors, in their respective sub-divisions, in addition to their own revenue and magisterial duties, and 3,806 acres were acquired by them, settled and constituted Reserved Forest under Section 19 of the Forest Act, while 4,948 acres were disforested during the year. Mr. T. D. Fry, I.C.S., Assistant Collector and *ex-officio* Forest Settlement Officer, instituted inquiries into the forest rights of the Inámdárs of Parvat and Mettaliya in the Jávli táluka, and submitted reports in the matter, which were not disposed of before the close of the year.

Sholápur Collectorate.

39. Forest demarcation and settlement in this Collectorate are practically completed, with the exception of certain occupied lands, situated within the sanctioned demarcation schemes, which have still to be acquired: this work was carried on by the District Deputy Collector, Mr. B. R. Heblikar, in addition to his own revenue and magisterial duties; 87 acres and 2 gunthas were obtained by payment of Rs. 845, and 63 acres and 23 gunthas by exchange: 93 acres were also notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act, and the work of their settlement was still going on at the close of the year.

Surat Collectorate.

40. Mr. A. Lucas, I.C.S., was special Forest Demarcation Officer for the Dángs during the year, and submitted a report No. 63, dated 1st September 1891, to the Collector of Khándesh, upon the projected forest reserves selected by him which, together with the work done by Mr. Gibb, I.C.S., during the previous season, provided for the following reservations:—

Dáng.	Total Area.		Area to be included in Forest.	
	Sq. miles.	Acres.	Sq. miles.	Acres.
Garvi	170	82	74	334
Pimpri	72	94	26	420
Amala (including Koita)	119	77	42	104
Derbhawti...	76	25	24	306
Wasurna	132	14	38	593
Chinchli Gadad	27	23	8	142
Wadhwán	4	90	2	66
Pimpládevi	3	44	...	184
Shivbára	4	99	...	252
Awchar	7	88	...	375
Kirli	21	...	...	440
Total ...	635	636	219	16

41. The Divisional Forest Officer of Surat, Mr. Madan, suggested certain additions to be made to these areas, aggregating 83 square miles 550 acres; and finally a conference of Revenue and Forest officers, composed of the Collector and Political Agent, Khándesh, the Demarcation Officer Mr. Lucas, and the Conservator of Forests, met at Dhulia on the 10th November 1891, and determined what additions could be made to the blocks proposed by Mr. Lucas, and which of the additional areas, proposed by the Divisional Forest Officer, were to be inspected again before it was finally decided whether they should be retained or abandoned. It may be mentioned that all the timber on the lands outside the forest reserves in the Dángs, will still be at the disposal of Government.

Mr. Lucas re-entered the Dángs on the 18th February 1892, and he was engaged up to the end of the year in erecting boundary marks, to define the limits of the selected reserves.

42. In the tálukás of the Surat Collectorate selections and settlements are complete, as far as outer boundaries are concerned and as far as the work of choosing sites for forest reservations has progressed; there are some tálukás in which no forest areas are to be found up to date; but a few occupied holdings within the forest boundaries have to be acquired and settled, and during the year 8 acres and 11 gunthas of these were obtained by purchase at Goema, by the Assistant Collector, who settled them in his capacity of *ex-officio* Settlement Officer; and they have been notified under Section 19 of the Forest Act.

Panch Maháls Collectorate.

43. Selection of forest areas and settlement in this Collectorate are practically complete. The Assistant Collector in charge of the Godhra táluka undertook an inquiry, under Section 7 of the Act, into rights over the areas of Protected Forest and waste lands, proposed for Reserved Forest under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 1066, dated 10th February 1891, and completed it during the year. The inquiry under Section 7 as to rights over the Protected Forest areas of Dohad and Jhálod, notified as proposed reserves on the 30th June 1891, in accordance with Government Resolution No. 2974, dated 30th April 1891, was also completed during the year, but the reports were not submitted up to the close of the year.

44. The following statement shows the total forest areas notified at different times under Sections 4, 28, and 34 respectively of the Forest Act which have undergone settlement in the different districts at the hands of their respective Forest Settlement Officers during the year of this report:—

No.	Division.	Area.		Remarks.
		Sq. miles.	Acres.	
1	North Thána	57	540	
2	South Thána	...	...	
3	East Khándesh	...	17	
4	West Khándesh	9	510	
5	Násik	86	337	
6	Ahmednagar	2	114	
7	Poona	9	60	
8	Sátára	5	604	
9	Sholápur	...	391	
10	Surat	...	8	
11	Panch Maháls	...	3	
	Total ...	172	24	

45. The following amounts have been paid in compensation for rights:—

	Name of Division.	Amount.	Remarks.
		Rs. a. p.	
1	West Khándesh	381 0 0	Paid to the holders of rights in Chopda, Shirpur and Sávda ranges.
2	Sátára	30 0 0	Paid to a Dhangar to remove his house from Teli forest in Jávli range.
	Total ...	411 0 0	

46. The expenditure incurred by the Forest Settlement Officers and the cost of their establishments entertained during the year is exhibited in the following table:—

No.	Division.	Forest Settlement Officers.		Office Establishments.		Contingencies.	Total.
		Pay.	Travelling Allowance.	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.		
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	North Thána	5,438 13 7	1,770 14 0	2,260 14 2	723 15 8	429 5 9	10,623 15 2
2	South Thána						
3	East Khándesh	11,263 2 10	1,923 12 8	4,453 6 11	1,433 9 11	291 10 10	20,365 11 2
4	West Khándesh						
5	Ahmednagar	....	....	719 11 9	303 0 3	192 5 0	1,215 1 0
6	Poona	....	....	1,176 0 5	387 14 5	360 14 6	1,924 13 4
7	Sátára	....	....	300 0 0	120 0 0	126 9 6	546 9 6
8	Surat (Dángs)	8,448, 2 2	2,100 0 0	1,105 10 8	260 4 14	148 0 3	12,062 2 0
9	Panch Mahâls	....	....	....	....	91 15 11	91 15 11
	Total ..	25,150, 2 7	5,794 10 8	10,015 11 11	3,228 13 2	1,640 13 9	45,830 4 1

3.—FOREST BOUNDARIES.

47. The work of erecting special forest boundary marks according to the standing orders on the subject was pushed on with vigor during the year, in almost all the divisions of the Northern Circle, and the following statement will show the number of cairns erected, together with the length of the boundary lines demarcated by them in miles, and the cost incurred on their account:—

No.	Division,	Length of Boundaries in Miles.	Number of Cairns erected.			Cost.
			Large.	Small.	Total.	
						Rs. a. p.
1	North Thána	65	998	...	998	494 8 6
2	South Thána	30½	93	442	535	178 1 6
3	East Khándesh	32	3	129	132	216 14 3
4	West Khándesh... ...	25½	473	2,892	3,365	1,606 8 2
5	Násik	352	2,842	4,148	6,990	3,406 5 1
6	Ahmednagar	92	1,138	...	1,138	696 3 6
7	Poona	283	1,101	6,245	7,346	2,150 0 9
8	Sátára	219	263	5,865	6,128	1,538 14 6
9	Sholápur	99	271	1,021	1,292	392 13 3
10	Surat	158	283	53	336	737 14 0
11	Panch Mahâls	97	76	1,335	1,411	387 4 0
	Total ...	1,453	7,541	22,130	29,671	11,805 7 6
	During 1890-91 ...	1,682	5,993	14,683	20,676	8,935 15 6

48. It will be seen that although the length of boundary line marked out is less this year than last, still a greater number of marks has been built during this year, the explanation being that natural boundaries, such as rivers and nálas, have come into the total linear distance of boundary line to a smaller extent this year than last, and further the country traversed by the demarcation in 1891-92, has been rougher and more irregular, so that boundary marks have been required at closer distances.

4.—PRIVILEGES CONCEDED TO VILLAGERS.

49. No restrictions have been made during the year, and no expansions of the privileges, already conceded by Government before the year opened, to the local